

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

Newsletter

2012

State of AAPI Report

Historic state report on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders expanded through a series of briefing papers focusing on the impact of the economy on our community and the release of a Dashboard monitoring progress.

Page 3

Education Initiative

Unprecedented collaboration working to improve education.

Page 1



Heritage Month

Celebrating our history and heritage at the annual APA Heritage Month event on the grounds of the Seattle Center.

Page 4

State Board Meetings



Advocating on issues and bringing resources to the community.

Page 4

Sustainable Growth Summit

A partnership with the White House AAPI Initiative and North Seattle Community College, CAPAA held a summit attended by hundreds in Seattle.

Page 3

Health Disparity Initiative

Launched last fall, the initiative focuses on data disaggregation, education, and the Affordable Care Act

Page 3



Education Initiative

In June 2011, in partnership with the community, the Commission launched the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative to prepare AAPI families, community leaders and organizations to be full partners in education policymaking in Washington State.

Meaningful participation of Washington's AAPI communities in improving education is critical to its overall success. AAPI students represent 8 percent of the population in our K-12 public schools. However, barriers like the model-minority myth and the lack of data/research prevent a clear understanding of the problems AAPIs face in the educational system. This initiative is designed to address these needs and build on two reports released in 2008 recommending strategies to close the educational opportunity gap for Asian American and Pacific Islander students and the AAPI Civic Engagement Initiative in 2010. The goal of the



The Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative gives a voice to our community in education policymaking in Washington State.

initiative will be accomplished through the following key outcomes:

Community Based Education Research

The first key outcome is action-oriented community based research to influence education reform proposals. In 2011, a series of focus group discussions on the challenges and opportunities for AAPI students and families in education were

conducted throughout the state. The major themes uncovered through the focus groups will be validated through a phone survey of AAPI parents and families in 2012.

Engagement on Education Policies

The second key outcome is increasing AAPI engagement in education reform through the development of policy priorities. Through a series of eight interactive workshops, participants will follow the principals of appreciative inquiry to design their ideal school system that will ensure the success of all AAPI students. Two statewide education summits will be convened in 2012 for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to develop and ratify an education agenda that serves the needs of AAPI students.

The third key outcome is increasing the civic engagement capacity of AAPI serving organizations. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition has a significant statewide reach in its advocacy and this initiative supports its capacity.

The AAPI Voices in Education Initiative partners include the Commission, the Asian Pacific Islander Think Tank, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, the Washington State Association for Multicultural Education, and the Win/Win Network.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is an exciting time for us, in this, the 37th year of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. By law, the commission advises state agencies, the legislature, and the Governor and acts as a liaison between state government and the community. It represents the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and is charged with articulating the concerns of our community and advocating for policies that address these concerns. CAPAA has a dual responsibility of not only informing and educating the community, but also listening and advocating for the wishes of our community members.

Our legacy in advocacy continues strong. Since the launch of the Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network, staff continues to meet with over twenty state agencies on a monthly basis to advocate on policies and programs for the AAPI community. This infrastructure bridges communication and access to services and programs for our community.

A few highlights in our priority areas of education, health care, human services, and economic development include the launch of a two-year education initiative with the community and a successful Sustainable Growth Summit held in partnership with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and North Seattle Community College. A historic health disparity initiative was also recently announced which includes unprecedented participation from five state agencies.

Our website continues to expand and recent additions include national, state, and local resources on AAPI issues. We also continue to produce electronic updates during the legislative session.

We continue to work for the well-being of our community. Please continue to reach out to us for assistance and to share your concerns. We look forward to continuing our work with you.

Kendee Yamaguchi

Kendee Yamaguchi

Message from the Chair

During these challenging economic times, the commission's work is ever more vital. Advocating for our AAPI community is essential given our rapid increase in population and needs.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs strives to educate the AAPI community about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being, and to be a conduit and resource to make government more accessible. I am pleased to report

that in the past few years, we have been very active and productive in our charge.

The Commission has been active in publicizing and educating the public about the disparities that adversely impact AAPIs in education, health care, human services, and economic development. To that end, the Commission has sponsored roundtables, public meetings, participated in task forces and statewide committees to address these critical issues and come up with solutions.

Our commissioners currently work on many issues to support and engage our community. The Commission's work would not be possible without the active participation of all of our commissioners. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work and commitment. Final thanks to our executive director, Kendee Yamaguchi, who devotes a tremendous amount of time and energy for the betterment of our community.

- Jagdish Sharma

Commissioner Profile

Commissioner Rey Pascua was a member during the transition of the Asian American Advisory Council to a legislatively created commission in 1974. He is currently serving his second term.



Special recognition to Commissioner Rey Pascua for his successful efforts in establishing October 2012 as Filipino American History Month in Washington State.

Commissioner Pascua was instrumental in the passage of a resolution in the Legislature honoring the month and worked with Governor Gregoire in the issuance of a state proclamation. He also worked extensively with numerous organizations and state agencies to raise awareness of Filipino American history and culture.

New Commissioners

Governor Gregoire's most recent appointments to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs include: Quang Nguyen, Lisa Dickinson, and Pearl Leung.

Commissioner Quang Nguyen resides in Seattle, Washington. He is an Economic Development Specialist for the Seattle Chinatown/International District Preservation Development Authority. With over 10 years of community leadership and economic development experience, Nguyen most recently served as the executive director for the Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce. Seattle Magazine recognized his work advocating for the preservation of Little Saigon community as one of the top "2009 Influential Acts."

Nguyen is a board member of the Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Little Saigon, Seattle Symphony, Celebrate Asian, and the Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee.



Commissioner Lisa Dickinson resides in Spokane, Washington. Super Lawyers named her a "Washington Rising Star" in 2006, 2010, and 2011. In 2005, she was selected by the Washington State Bar Association as a fellow for the prestigious WSBA Leadership

Institute. She is the owner of Dickinson Law Firm, PLLC, where she currently works as an attorney. Prior to this, Dickinson served as a law clerk in the Western District of Washington, Office of the Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Lisa is active in her community and served as a legal advisor to the Japanese American Citizens League - Spokane Chapter. She has served as a board member on the Northwest Justice Project, Spokane Washington Women Lawyers, Rotary Club 21, and the Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center. In 2010, she was named a representative to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates.

Commissioner Leung lives in Seattle, Washington. She is the Community Relations Manager in the Department of Corporate Communications at Vulcan. Leung previously worked for Governor Gary Locke and Representative Velma Veloria. She is a board member on the Low Income Housing Institute and the South Lake Union Community Council.

Leung was instrumental in the creation of the South Lake Union Chamber of Commerce and is an active participant in the YWCA Girls First program which mentors high school girls of color.

Statewide Board Meetings

Partnering with the AAPI community and state agencies to ensure access to services and information.

Launch of AAPI Health Disparity Initiative



In December 2011, the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs launched the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Health Disparity Initiative.

The initiative's primary goal is to achieve health equity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Washington State. The top priorities of the initiative are data collection, treatment, prevention, and education on the Affordable Care Act.

Working in partnership with community-based organizations, the initiative has three core strategies, including: promoting closer collaborations between state agencies and community based organizations, developing mechanisms to monitor and report on progress toward achieving health equity, and facilitating input and feedback from the community.

Sponsors of the AAPI Health Disparity Initiative include the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Health Care Authority, and the Department of Social and Health Services.

Sustainable Growth Summit a Success



In partnership with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and North Seattle Community College, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs hosted a Sustainable Growth Summit on July 8, 2011, to raise awareness on opportunities for communities to drive sustainable growth. Numerous workshops and panels bringing together federal and local officials to promote sustainable communities, encourage innovation, and support economic growth were held.

The goal of the summit was to engage the AAPI community on programs that help communities develop a clean energy economy, create green jobs, support economic growth, and foster a healthy sustainable environment.

Several hundred community members attended to hear featured speakers including: Chris Lu, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary, White House, Hyeok Kim, President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs, Calvin Goings, Region XI Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Ronnie Chatterji, Senior Economist, White House Council of Economic Advisors.

State of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders



In 2010, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs released the first comprehensive report in our state's history examining issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, *The State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*.

This report documents the diversity, population growth, health, economy, educational and political participation, language, and immigration issues facing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders today.

The report is the result of collaboration between the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law, attorneys from Perkins Coie, fellows, and the commission. Reports were provided to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state agency directors, and the AAPI community.

Following the issuance of the report, in 2011, a series of policy briefing papers examining economic issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community were released.

In 2012, the commission launched a *Dashboard* monitoring important indicators on how our state is progressing on the outcomes necessary to improve the well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The full report, policy papers, and the *Dashboard* can be found on the commission's website.

Calendar of Events

Stay informed on issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in Washington State. Stay connected to information and other opportunities. Find more events on our website calendar at www.capaa.wa.gov

CAPAA Board Meetings

January 14, 2012
Filipino Community Center
5740 Martin Luther King Jr.
Way South, Seattle, WA

March 17, 2012
General Administration
Building
210 11th Avenue Southwest
Olympia, WA

June 16, 2012
Asia Pacific Culture Center
4851 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA

September 15, 2012
Snohomish County
Administration Building
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA

November 17, 2012
International Family Center
Chinese Information and
Service Center
611 South Lane Street, 2nd
Floor, Seattle, WA

Meetings are held from 10 -2
Public comment begins at 1

Legislative Session

January 9, 2012
Legislative Session Begins

APA Heritage Month

May 6, 2012
API Heritage Month
Celebration
Seattle Center
11:45 - 5

Education Summits

September 29, 2012
Pacific Islander Education
Summit
South Seattle Community
College
6000 16th Avenue, Southwest
Seattle, WA

October 6, 2012
Southeast Asian/Asian
American Education Summit
Highline Community College
2400 South 240th Street
Des Moines, WA

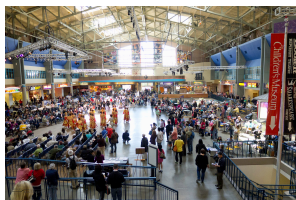
AAPI Statewide Summit

September 21, 2012
Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall
Tacoma, WA
10-3

Fellows, Interns and Volunteers

Ben Henry, Fellow
Justin Chan, Fellow
Micah Bateman-Iino, Fellow
Kaitlin Kerwin, Intern

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Washington State. There are many opportunities to get involved, and participate in celebrating AAPI heritage, including arts and cultural events.

The State of Washington formally recognized May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the year 2000. This encouraged public institutions, including public schools, to recognize and celebrate the contributions of AAPIs to our state and nation. Every year, our state holds many events showcasing the rich cultures of the AAPI communities through song, dance, music, art and displays.

This year's event celebrating APA Heritage Month will be at the Seattle Center on May 6, 2012. Additionally, the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition is hosting an art contest presenting API heritage and culture. The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, 2012. Further information is available on our agency's website.

If you or your organization is looking for ways to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month, our agency website is a great resource for ideas and information.

Stay Connected

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provides weekly informational updates during the legislative session on committee hearings, bills and other events of interest. Informational alerts and job opportunities are also sent out. Sign up to receive information by visiting the commission's website at www.capaa.wa.gov

Commission Board

Jagdish Sharma — Chair
Rey Pascua — 1st Vice Chair
Frieda Takamura — 2nd Vice Chair

Tyati Tufono, Snohomish County; Lisa Dickinson, Spokane County; Debadutta Dash, King County; Pearl Leung, King County; Quang Nguyen, King County; Tashi Khamshitsang, King County; Sofia Aragon, Thurston County; and Jeannie Lee, Thurston County.

Kendee Yamaguchi, Executive Director

Justin Chan, Executive Assistant

Editors: Micah Bateman-Iino and Justin Chan

Main Office

Phone: 360.725.5667 Email: capaa@capaa.wa.gov

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
General Administration Building
210 11th Avenue Southwest, Suite 301, PO Box 40925
Olympia, Washington 98504-0925